

BUCKHURST HILL

Urban District Council.

THE


ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For 1914.

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BUCKHURST HILL
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

For the Year ending December 31st, 1914.

The year 1914 has been marked by the very high rain fall of 25·96 inches being the highest recorded for the past ten years, with the exception of 1912 which was 26·39 inches.

During December the rain fall was 6·28 inches the highest recorded in any one month since 1903.

The mortality rate although slightly above the average for the past five years is below that for last year, more than half the deaths occurring below the age of one year and over sixty-five years.

I. PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISTRICT.

The District is situated on the ridge of land between the valleys of the Rivers Roding and Ching, the greater portion facing the valley of the Roding.

The subsoil is principally stiff clay, with here and there pockets of gravel of varying size, a large bed of gravel in the Roding valley providing a supply for keeping the roads in the District in repair.

The area of the District is about 873 acres (exclusive of areas covered by water and including about 150 acres of Forest land and roads).

The highest point of the District is 271 feet, and the lowest about 45 feet above sea level.

The District is principally a residential one.

II. HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.

A few houses on up-to-date lines were erected during the early part of the year, and there are still a considerable number of the older houses to let.

III. THE HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.

Systematic inspection of the houses under the Housing and Town Planning Act was continued, thirteen houses coming under Section 15 of the Act were dealt with, and twenty-one were visited under Section 17.

The defects discovered in the houses inspected were of a trifling nature and consisted mainly of want of repair to flushing tanks, ceilings and floors, dampness of walls and lack of covers to cisterns, in the latter case an effort was made to get the landlord to fix a main tap, in most cases successfully, sinks have also been provided in some of the older houses.

IV. HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACT.

No action has been taken under the Housing of the Working Classes Act.

V. SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The Council's Sewerage Works, situate on the banks of the Roding, take the sewage from the Eastern slope of the hill, that from the Western slope being treated at Woodford Western Works.

The Council's Works consists of two settling tanks, primary, secondary, and sprinkler filter beds, a storm overflow bed, and about 14 acres for treating resulting effluent, have acted efficiently during the year.

No pollution of the River occurred during the year.

During the year the drains of ten houses have been re-laid and twenty amended.

In the latter part of the summer the Forest Pond in the High Road was drained and cleaned out, but the heap of refuse has not yet been cleared away.

VI. REMOVAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

House refuse is collected by the Council's men once a week throughout the year, 2,345½ yards have been removed.

VII. WATER SUPPLY.

All houses in the District obtain their water supply from the Metropolitan Water Board, from deep artesian wells at Waltham Abbey and Chingford Mill.

The water is hard, but the supply is constant and adequate, complaints that the water frequently contains a sediment have been received.

VIII. BAKEHOUSES, DAIRIES AND SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

The Bakehouses, Dairies and Slaughterhouses have been regularly inspected by the Sanitary Inspector, and at varying intervals by myself.

The milk supply of the District is good.

The Cowsheds and Dairies within the District have been found on inspection to be clean, the Cowkeeper endeavouring to reduce to a minimum the chances of contamination of the milk, by such means as washing the udders, flanks and hindquarters of the cows.

There are two slaughterhouses in the District, neither the Sanitary Inspector nor myself have detected any Tuberculous cattle being slaughtered, nor has any carcase, or part of a carcase been seized on account of Tubercule or other disease.

IX. NUISANCES.

There were four complaints received, 29 nuisances detected without complaint.

No formal notices were served ; 33 nuisances were abated.

X. OFFENSIVE TRADES AND LODGING HOUSES.

None in District.

XI. SCHOOLS.

The Medical Officer appointed by the Essex County Council Education Committee examined the children in the Public Elementary Schools during the year.

The Schools are supplied with water from the Metropolitan Water Board.

The sanitary conveniences are in good order.

XII. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Thirty two cases of Infectious Disease were notified, four of these were Pulmonary and four other forms of Tuberculosis, of the remaining twenty four cases, three were Diphtheria, three Erysipelas, fifteen Scarlet Fever, one Puerperal Fever and two Chicken Pox, two cases of Diphtheria and twelve of Scarlet Fever were removed to the Waltham Joint Hospital, at no time was Scarlet Fever epidemic.

The Waltham Joint Hospital Board are considering steps to be taken for provision of Smallpox accommodation.

Cases of Measles cropped up from time to time during the year, but at no time became epidemic.

Chicken Pox was made a notifiable disease on October the 7th, 1914, for a period of twelve months and two notifications have been received up to the end of the year.

There is no Hospital accommodation for cases of Phthisis either early or advanced in the District.

Four cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and four cases of other forms of Tuberculous disease were notified during the year (two of the former cases were visitors to the District) and four deaths occurred from Tubercular disease.

On receipt of a notification enquiries have been made, both from the practitioner notifying and by personal visits, when instructions with regard to the disposal of sputum, fresh air, etc., are given.

Sputum is examined at the request of the practitioner in attendance.

During the year fourteen swabs were examined bacteriologically for Diphtheria and two sputums for Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Disinfections after cases of Infectious Disease is carried out by means of Formalin and spraying, in the case of rooms; bedding, etc., is disinfected in a steam disinfecter.

XIII. RAINFALL.

The Rainfall for the year was :—

Lat. 51 deg. 37 min. 30 sec. N. Long. 0 deg. 2 min. 5 sec. E.

		1913.	1914.
January	..	2·96 inches.	0·58 inches.
February	...	0·79 „	2·29 „
March	...	1·88 „	4·21 „
April	...	2·79 „	0·87 „
May	...	1·38 „	1·82 „
June	...	0·37 „	2·03 „
July	...	1·71 „	1·37 „
August	...	1·75 „	1·55 „
September	...	1·38 „	0·89 „
October	...	3·44 „	1·14 „
November	...	2·46 „	2·93 „
December	...	0·78 „	6·28 „
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	21·69 „	25·96 „

XIV. BIRTH AND DEATH RATE.

The Birth Rate is lower than that recorded for last year being 18·3 per 1,000 and is slightly under the average for the past five years which is 18·97 per 1,000.

The number of deaths registered as occurring in the District was 57, 8 of these were of non-residents dying in institutions in the District, 9 deaths of Buckhurst Hill residents temporarily residing in other Districts have to be added giving a nett total of 58 being a death rate for the year of 11·8 per 1000.

This is lower than that for 1913, but slightly above the average for the past five years which is 10·06 per 1,000.

XV. INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Of the total deaths registered in the District nine were of children under one year, giving a death rate of 101 per 1,000 births, of these one was due to Enteritis, one to Diarrhœa, one to Debility and Marasmus, one to Laryngitis, two to Bronchitis, two to Premature Birth and one to other causes.

XVI. FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

These have been systematically inspected by the Sanitary Inspector, and from time to time by myself.

Factories.	Workshops.	Domestic Workshops.
1 Printer.	3 Builders.	2 Cobblers.
1 Brick.	2 Stonemasons.	1 Tailor.
1 Blacksmith.	3 Blacksmiths.	
	2 Cyclemakers.	
	1 Harness Maker.	
	2 Upholsterers.	
	5 Dressmakers.	
BAKEHOUSES.	3 Laundries.	
5 Retail.	2 Shoemakers and Repairers.	
	1 Blouse Maker.	

I estimate the population of the District is 4,910.

Mr. Heath, the Sanitary Inspector, has carried out his duties in a thoroughly efficient manner.

A summary of the work done by the Sanitary Inspector, together with Tables I., II., III., and IV., required by the Local Government Board are appended.

CHAS. R. DYKES, M.R.C.S., and L.R.C.P.,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLES OF POPULATION, BIRTH, AND OF
CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1914 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Uncorrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	Of Non-residents in the District.	Of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1909	5300	97	97	18.3	64	12.07	8	9	6	61.8	65	12.26
1910	5300	105	105	19.6	41	7.6	6	3	3	28.5	38	7.01
1911	4887	97	106	21.6	51	10.4	7	4	11	103.7	48	9.8
1912	4900	67	69	14.08	43	8.7	6	8	4	58	45	9.1
1913	4910	103	105	21.3	55	11.2	5	10	7	66.6	60	12.2
1914	4910	87	89	18.1	57	11.6	8	9	9	101	58	11.8

Area of District in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	873	} At last Census.
Total Population at all ages	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,887	
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,090	
Average Number of Persons per House	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4.5	
Lowest Level of Land in District above Ordnance Level	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45.00 feet.	
Highest Level of Land in District above Ordnance Level	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	271 feet.	
Population—Estimated to middle of 1914	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,910.	

Subsoil almost entirely clay, with pockets of gravel in higher parts, and also a bed of gravel in the valley covered with alluvial soil.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1914.

Notifiable Diseases.	At all Ages.	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards	Total cases removed to Hospital.
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	3	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	2
Erysipelas	3	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	14	—	—	12	1	1	—	—	12
Puerperal Fever	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	—
Other forms of Tuberculosis	4	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	—
Chicken Pox	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	32	1	2	17	5	6	1	—	14

Isolation Hospital—Waltham Joint Hospital, Waltham Abbey.

Total available beds, 40. Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 3.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1914.

Causes of Death.	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and up-wards.	Deaths in Public Institutions.
Influenza	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Phthisis, Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer, malignant Disease ...	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	1
Meningitis	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Organic Heart Disease	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	1
Bronchitis	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Pneumonia (all forms)	3	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	1
Other Diseases of respiratory Organs	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	4	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Nephritis & Bright's Disease ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	1
Puerperal Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Violent Deaths excluding Suicide	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Other Defined Diseases	8	1	—	—	—	—	1	3	3	5
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—
All Causes ...	57	9	4	—	2	1	8	8	25	11

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1914.

DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES IN WEEKS AND MONTHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

Causes of Death.	Under 1 Week.	2-3 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
All causes certified	1	2	3	1	2	3	—	9
„ „ uncertified	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Laryngitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
Diarrhoea	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Enteritis	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Premature Birth	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	2
Atrophy, Debility & Marasmus	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Other Causes	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Total	1	2	3	1	2	3	—	9

Births in the year	{	Legitimate	86
	{	Illegitimate	4
Deaths in the year	{	Legitimate infants	8
	{	Illegitimate infants	1

SUMMARY OF WORK

Done through the **SANITARY INSPECTOR** in the
Urban Sanitary District of Buckhurst Hill during
the Year ending December 31st, 1914.

Complaints received	4
Nuisances detected without complaint	29
Nuisances abated	33
Notices served (informal)	23
,, ,, H. & T. P. A., Sec. 17	20
,, ,, ,, Sec. 15	1
Closing Orders made	
Summons taken out	
Convictions	
Cottages inspected under the H. & T. P. A., Sec. 17	21 visits 109
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, Sec. 15	13 ,, 60
Lodging-houses inspected (none in district)	
Slaughterhouses (two in district)	20
Bakehouses inspected (five in district)	46
Dairies and Milkshops (three in district)	63
Cowkeeper (one in district)	45
Workshops and Workplaces (27)	78
Factories (3)	11
Filthy Houses cleansed, Sec. 46 Public Health Act, 1875	
Houses disinfected	29
Overcrowding abated... ..	1
Houses placed in habitable repair	31
Houses closed... ..	
Wells sunk or improved supplies of water afforded	4
Wells cleansed or repaired	
Wells filled up	
Cesspools cleansed	
Houses connected with sewers	6
,, ,, ,, water mains	8
Earth, pail, or improved Privies constructed, or existing Privies altered; Privies and W.C.'s repaired; W.C.'s supplied with water	10
Cisterns cleansed, repaired, or covered, or water supply otherwise amended	6
Drains entirely relaid... ..	10
Drains amended	20
Dustbins supplied	3
Drains tested	22
Animals improperly kept	
Samples of water taken for Analysis	
Compensation paid for destruction of infected book	1
Seizures of unsound fish. etc.	

The total number of visits paid with reference to nuisances, cottages, dustbins, to workshops, workplaces and factories, bakehouses, dairies and slaughterhouses and Fabrics Misdescription Act has been 1032.

The house refuse is collected weekly. There were 2,345½ yards collected in 1914.

(Signed) J. T. HEATH, A.R.S.I.,
Inspector of Nuisances.